

Remarks

Claims 1-7, 9-13, and 23-30 remain in the application. Claim 8 was previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 14-19 and 20-22 are hereby canceled without prejudice to facilitate prosecution of the remaining claims. Claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 23, 24, 26, and 29 are hereby amended. No new matter is being added.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1, 4, 9-13 and 30 were allowed in the latest office action. Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for these allowed claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 5 and 7 were objected to for reciting "each of the programmable current sense and control units" while the respective parent claims 4 and 6 recite "a programmable current sense and control unit." In accordance with the Examiner's recommendation, applicant has amended claims 5 and 7 to correct this difference. Claims 5 and 7 now recite "the programmable current sense and control unit." Hence, applicant respectfully submits that this objection is now overcome.

Claim Rejections--Section 112

Claims 2-3, 5-7 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As discussed below, applicant has amended these claims in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations.

Claims 2 and 5 were rejected for insufficient antecedent basis for "the network switches". Applicant has amended claims 2 and 5 to now read "the ethernet switches" which have antecedent basis in parent claim 1. Hence, applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now overcome for claims 2 and 5.

Claim 3 was rejected as carrying the same ambiguity as claim 2. Since the antecedent basis has been corrected for claim 2 as discussed above, applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now overcome for claim 3.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected for insufficient antecedent basis for "the network switch". Applicant has amended claims 6 and 7 to now read "the ethernet switch" which has antecedent basis in parent claim 1. Hence, applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now overcome for claims 6 and 7.

Claim 23 was rejected for ambiguity relating to "an internal power supply" and "an external power supply" in parent claim 22. Applicant has amended claim 23 to incorporate the limitations of previously presented claims 20, 21 and 22. In doing so, the limitations from previously presented claim 22 have been amended so as to now read "the internal power supply" and "the external power supply" to clarify the antecedent basis. Hence, applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now overcome with respect to claim 23.

Allowability of Claim 23

Claim 23 was deemed allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, claim 23 originally depended from claim 22, which depended from claim 21, which depended from claim 20. Accordingly, applicant has amended claim 23 to incorporate the limitations of claims 20, 21 and 22 (which are now canceled).

Regarding the rejection under Section 112, claim 23 was rejected as carrying the same ambiguity as claim 22, and claim 22 was rejected for ambiguity in relation to "an internal power supply" and "an external power supply". As discussed above, applicant has amended claim 23 to now read "the internal power supply" and "the external power supply" to clarify the antecedent basis. Hence, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under Section 112 is now overcome for claim 23.

For the above-discussed reasons, applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 23 is now in form for allowance.

Allowability of Dependent Claims 24-29

Dependent claims 24-29 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable. Applicant has hereby amended claims 24-29 to depend from allowable claim 23 (instead of depending from a rejected claim). Hence, applicant respectfully submits that claims 24-29 are now also in form for allowance.

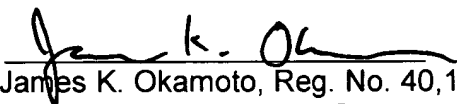
Conclusion

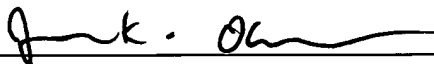
For the above-discussed reasons, applicant believes that 1-7, 9-13, and 23-30, as they are hereby amended, are now in form for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason an insufficient fee has been paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the insufficiency to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

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